

Application No. 10/652,626
Amendment dated December 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 28, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 2, wherein the base includes an upper surface and an underside, wherein a surface area of the underside has an index of sliding friction that is greater than an index of sliding friction of the upper surface.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 2, wherein the base has at least one vertical perforation.
4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 2, wherein at least part of the frame is removably attached to the base.
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)

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8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[7]] 2, wherein the lower frame portion is pivotally attached to the front base portion.

9. (currently amended) A support apparatus for placement within a bath tub, comprising:

a base;

a frame attached to the base, wherein the frame has an upper frame portion, a lower frame portion, and a brace portion; and

a cover removably attached to the frame, wherein the cover has an indented shape for supporting a human body;

wherein the base includes a front base portion and a rear base portion, and the brace portion of the frame is attached to the rear base portion and to the upper frame portion;

further comprising at least one junction member, wherein the brace portion of the frame and the upper frame portion are coupled together by the at least one junction member;

wherein the brace portion of the frame is pivotally attached to the rear base portion and to the at least one junction member, the at least one junction member is slidably attached to the upper frame portion, and the upper frame portion is pivotally attached to the front base portion; and

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~~The apparatus of claim 7,~~ wherein the at least one junction member comprises first and second junction members, the brace portion of the frame and the upper frame portion are coupled together by the first and second junction members, the upper frame portion includes a top frame portion and first and second bottom frame portions, the top frame portion is pivotally connected to the first and second bottom frame portions via the first and second junction members, and the first and second bottom frame portions are coupled to the front base portion.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein the base includes a front base portion and a rear base portion, and the lower frame portion is pivotally attached to the front base portion.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, further comprising first and second junction members;

wherein the upper frame portion includes a top frame portion and first and second bottom frame portions, the top frame portion is pivotally connected to the first and second bottom frame portions via the respective first and second junction members, the base includes a front base portion and a rear base portion, and the first and second bottom frame portions are coupled to the front base portion.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein the cover includes at least one fabric.

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13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein the cover includes an elastic material.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein the cover includes a padded material.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein at least part of the cover is inflatable.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein at least part of the cover has a contoured shape.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein the cover has a lowest portion that is positioned at a height that is higher than a height of the upper surface of the base.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~18~~ 32, wherein the fabric frame comprises first and second U-shaped pieces defining the respective first and second planes.

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20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first U-shaped piece is pivotally attached to the base.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the base includes at least one flange that supports the first U-shaped piece at a front angle with respect to the base.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein straight ends of the second U-shaped piece are coupled to the base.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the base includes at least one footing that couples the second U-shaped piece at a rear angle with respect to the base.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the frame support is coupled to the second U-shaped piece.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the frame support is pivotally coupled to the base, and is slidably coupled to the second U-shaped piece.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the frame support is pivotally coupled to the second U-shaped piece.

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27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~27~~ 32, wherein the first U-shaped piece is pivotally attached to the base.

29. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~27~~ 32, wherein the base includes at least one flange that supports the first U-shaped piece at a front angle with respect to the base.

30. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~27~~ 32, wherein the first and second spanners are coupled to the base.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the base includes first and second footings that couple the respective first and second spanners at a rear angle with respect to the base.

32. (currently amended) An apparatus for supporting an infant in a bathtub, comprising:

a base having a peripheral structure and an inner aperture;

a fabric frame defining first and second planes forming a frame angle, wherein the fabric frame is coupled to the base at the frame angle;

a frame support coupled to the base and to the fabric frame; and

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a fabric cover that is removably attached to the fabric frame;

wherein the fabric frame comprises a first U-shaped piece, a second U-shaped piece, and first and second spanner pieces, wherein the first U-shaped piece defines the first plane, and the first and second spanner pieces are coupled to extend the second U-shaped piece and together with the second U-shaped piece define the second plane; and

~~The apparatus of claim 27,~~ wherein the frame support couples the first and second spanners to the second U-shaped piece.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the frame support is pivotally coupled to the base.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the frame support includes a first linkage that couples the first spanner to the second U-shaped piece and a second linkage that couples the second spanner to the second U-shaped piece.

35. (original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the first and second linkages are pivotally coupled to the second U-shaped piece.

36. (original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the frame support includes a brace that is pivotally coupled to the first and second linkages, and which is removably coupled to the base.

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37. (original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the base includes a lip against which the brace is disposed.

38. (original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the first and second spanners are pivotally coupled to the respective first and second linkages.

39. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~18~~ 32, wherein the fabric cover includes at least one pocketed portion that fits over part of the fabric frame.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the fabric cover includes a first pocketed portion that fits over a front end of the fabric frame, and a second pocketed portion that fits over a back end of the fabric frame.

41. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the second pocketed portion includes a headrest.

42. (original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the headrest is contoured.

43. (original) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the headrest includes a foam material.

44. (original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the headrest is inflatable.

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45. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~18~~ 32, wherein the fabric cover includes at least one mesh panel.

46. (original) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the fabric cover includes at least one main mesh panel and two side mesh panels connected to the main mesh panel, defining an interior volume of the fabric cover having an upper edge.

47. (original) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the fabric cover further includes a foam border covering at least a portion of the upper edge of the interior volume.